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Docket No. 49855-CPA (70904)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: H. Washio et al.

U.S. SERIAL NO.: 09/578,440

GROUP: 2674

FILED: May 25, 2000

EXAMINER: A. Abdulsalam

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By:

Steven M. Jensen

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APR 08 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

AMENDMENT

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated January 2, 2004 of the above-referenced application. Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.